for the development of NH 39 in a phased manner in Manipur.

Development of ports by Rites

131. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether RITES is doing consultancy work in Port development;

(b) if so, the details of such work entrusted to RITES; and

(c) the financial allocations for new Ports or Port development as recommended by RITES in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A number of studies have been entrusted by Major Ports and Maritime States relating to port developments to RITES M/s RITES have been entrusted by the Ministry of Surface Transport the work of conducting a study on Perspective Plan for Indian Port Sector-Vision 2020 which will cover trafic projections critical examination of the existing conditions of the ports, their capacity and contraints, the scope for augmention of capacity in short and long term, identification and removal of other infrastructure contraints etc.

(c) RITES have not finalised the report.

Export of Cotton Fabrics

132. PROF. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the exports of cotton fabrics, particularly higher value earning mill grade cloth, is falling;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether any corrective steps have been taken by Government to arrest the falling exports?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R. L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) During the period January-October, 97, there has been come decline in the quantitative exports of cotton fabrics, including mill-made cotton fabrics. The declining trend in exports is mainly due to the heightened competition from neighbouring countries and also due to the ongoing anti-dumping proceedings of the European Commission (EC) on import of Unbleached Cotton Fabrics, inter-alia, from India.

(c) Government have extended the facility of concessional duty imports of certain items of machinery used in the weaving, processing and garment industries with a view to encouraging exports of higher value added textile products, including mill-made cotton fabrics. Besides, a number of measures are being taken to boost the exports of textiles, including mill-made cotton fabrics, such as encouraging exporters to participate in buyer-seller meets, fairs and exhibitions; special arrangements for duty free import of raw materials for export production; ensuring increased availability of export credit etc. The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council has been contesting the EC's anti-dumping proceedings and have engaged a Belgian law firm, specialising in anti-dumping cases, for effectively defending the case.

Rehabilitation of textiles mill workers rendered jobless

133. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT:
SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to rehabilitate the textile mill workers who have become jobless due to closure of the mills;

(b) if so, what are the provisions of these plans;